

H. Con. Res. 314, Recognizing and Supporting American Veterans, H. Con. Res. 165, Support for Continued Fibroid Cancer Research and H. Con. Res. 309, Importance of Good Cervical Health & Early Detection of Cervical Cancer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 171, 172 and 173. I was regrettably absent from the chamber today during rollcall votes 171, 172 and 173. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4187

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4187, Presidential Records Act amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE U.S. PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a special tribute to some very special athletes and to an incredibly important entrepreneur. To paraphrase one of my favorite Presidents: "Those who say that there are no more American heroes, well, they just don't know where to look."

For too long, there have been too few women athletes for girls to look up to. A brave entrepreneur named Bill Kennedy decided to change all that. He created the U.S. Professional Volleyball League. This was their inaugural season.

They assembled some of the finest women athletes and put together an exciting season. If you thought 30-inch vertical jumps were only for the NBA, you would be wrong. Fans responded by filling arenas and cheering to the top of their lungs.

Now, I admit that we are especially proud of Coach Tore Aleksandersen, General Manager Kevin Rueten, and all the members of the Minnesota Chill. They won both the regular season and the playoff championship. Rochester is proud to call them our home team.

Perhaps even better than seeing the Chill win the championship was to see

the adoration in the eyes of young girls who came to cheer for their local heroes.

We all need heroes and role models. We were blessed to find a new group in the Chill and in the entire league. We saw little of the bad behavior which has become so commonplace in modern day sports. We were treated to spirited competition that parents could be proud to take their children to. I have little doubt that the league will grow and prosper.

Congratulations again to all the members of the Minnesota Chill for their championship in this inaugural season and thank you again to Bill Kennedy for giving us this new league and a wonderful group of new heroes.

EAST TIMOR'S INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this week, on the other side of the globe, the world celebrates the creation of a new democracy, the Democratic Republic of East Timor. I congratulate and honor the people of this island nation for their perseverance and for the triumph of freedom over oppression.

The effort to bring self-determination to East Timor was a dream back in 1994, when I first came to the House. But now, today, it is a reality. Since coming to Congress, I have seen how the East Timorese people have stood against tremendous odds, resisted military rule, despite the killing of one-third of the population in the 1970s and the oppression and massacres of subsequent years.

There have been many of us in Congress dedicated to the plight of the East Timorese largely because of the information we learned over years of meetings and visits with the residents of East Timor. I personally had the opportunity to go to East Timor to visit with Bishop Belo, one of the two Nobel Peace prize winners. They and others were willing to give me their stories, tell me what was going on.

In that context, Mr. Speaker, and with the work of groups such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, and I might add the Catholic Conference of Bishops was a tremendous help in this effort, as well as the Indonesian Human Rights Network, and, of course, East Timor Action Network, all who were instrumental, everyone should feel very proud of this effort and outcome.

Let me just conclude by saying we are at a critical time now with this new democracy. We need to give it all the support it can get so that it can establish itself and make a difference for the people of East Timor.

As we move forward, however, we cannot forget the need to continue to show our support for East Timor's sustainable development and a positive future.

The United States should work with the United Nations and its members to make sure that the job of preparing East Timor for self-rule is completed.

Enough proper expertise and funds must be provided to ensure a smooth transition in government services and to train East Timorese to fully manage their own affairs.

After decades of tremendous suffering under military occupation, we need to give generously to East Timor to ensure that children are guaranteed a quality education, adequate healthcare and shelter, and that other needs for a decent standard of living are met.

This is especially crucial in light of the recently released United Nations Development Program Report that classified East Timor as one of the twenty poorest countries in the world and the poorest in Asia.

Life expectancy in the island nation is just 57 years, and nearly half the population lives on less than fifty-five American cents (\$.55) per day.

This burgeoning democracy will need our hand as we move into the Twenty First Century.

I look forward to working with my Colleagues in Congress on these issues and these challenges.

But today, we celebrate the perseverance and the spirit of the East Timorese and we celebrate the creation of democracy.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON BILL MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight tonight, May 20, 2002, to file a privileged report on a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 1 of rule XXI, points of order are reserved.

SUPPORT OUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Members came on the floor during 1-minute speeches, based on a report that was in on CBS News reporting that there was some speculation, if you will, that President Bush actually knew the events of September 11 would happen and that he did nothing to prevent them. To say I was outraged would minimize my feelings on this issue.

I wanted to address this Chamber late Thursday because, as I heard these speakers one by one mount the podium to challenge the Commander in Chief

of this country, I was not only shocked but chagrined that, in the middle of a fight against terrorism, while our men and women are in Afghanistan and our soldiers are standing vigil around the world, that Members would actually speculate not only openly but antagonistically impugn the President's reputation.

I heard this weeks ago, when a Member of this body speculated that not only did he know but he kept the information quiet so people could profit from their knowledge; that investors and people who bought defense stock and others, and this Member actually singled out a few and suggested they were in fact in on the game. Now, clearly, I thought that was so far out in left field that I would not even give it credence. But then respected Members of this body got up and continued the assault this week, including a gentleman from New York, who even speculated that the President, if he knew, was personally responsible for the deaths in New York.

Now, talk about shock, talk about outrage, talk about reckless commentary. We all want to know what happened September 11, and we all want to talk about the failures potentially of intelligence, and we all want to look at the system and try to perfect it so it does not happen again. The warnings in the last 24 hours are shocking and are of great concern to every American and should be to every Member of this body. But for a Member to sit here and randomly speculate that he or she believes that this President, or any President, would know of this information and sit on it, is just sheer lunacy, and it is regrettable. I think those that made those comments should seek to have them taken down, because I think they are not only reprehensible but they diminish our united efforts on terrorism.

There is one thing certain in America, as we all think about the tragedy that began in New York and spread to Washington and to the fields of Pennsylvania, that many lives were lost due to people who did not respect our country. They do not respect what we stand for. They do not respect democracy. But to have our own Members of this Congress speculate alongside them and question the dedication of a President?

I remember when there was an invasion of Bosnia, and there was speculation because of a scandal enveloping the President that he may have proceeded to bomb Bosnia because he was trying to deflect the attention from the scandal in Washington. I myself, as a Republican, took umbrage to that. I was outraged by that comment as well, because I felt to speculate that a good, kind man, like President Clinton or President Bush, would knowingly risk innocent lives, one to deflect criticism from themselves and one because they were not paying attention to the job, is just the height of irresponsibility.

We have a lot to do in this body, and we have a lot of questions to ask.

Seems like those questions are fired fast and furious at the other end of this hall by those who want to interview Governor Ridge; they want answers to all these questions; they want to see the detailed briefings; they want to lay out all of this for the world to see. And the ones I am concerned about seeing this the most are the terrorists that may still be residing in this country.

So rather than be divisive, let us pull ourselves together. There will be plenty of time to lead inquiry; but we are actively engaged right now in the pursuit of freedom, we are actively engaged in protecting our citizens from terrorism, we are actively engaged in trying to get all agencies of the Federal Government to cooperate, the FBI, the CIA, Border Patrol, and Immigration. So I think our collective efforts, rather than to see who can point fingers and accuse the Commander in Chief and the President of this great country, we should be focusing our efforts to strengthen our common resolve against our enemy.

Our enemy is not at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Our enemy should not be the Republican or Democratic Party, or who controls this Chamber. This fight is not over who runs this place. It is a fight for democracy, and it is a fight for freedom. And I hope my colleagues will be cautious when they seek to accuse this fine President of shirking his responsibility and his duty.

I am proud of him. I think he has done a masterful job. And I continue to give him 100 percent of my support.

CRISES IN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am quoting from a recent report called, "A Future With Hope," prepared by Bread for the World. It says, under the policy to address world hunger, and I quote, "The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, profoundly affected the United States. Psychologically the Nation was wounded, the vulnerability exposed, and its sense of security shattered. The attack pushed an already faltering economy into recession, yet much of the developing world would suffer even greater devastation as a result of the attacks. A World Bank study reported that the ripple effect from September 11 would hurt economic growth in developing countries, especially in Africa."

Mr. Speaker, in the last years, there has been much discussion about assistance to Africa by Western countries, including the United States and Europe. With the crisis of AIDS and other infectious diseases continuing to grow ever more menacing, the wealthy countries of the world are finally, though still inadequately, taking notice, and we support them, taking notice of a pandemic and the devastation directed

every day upon our African brothers and sisters.

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AIDS does not discriminate. Killing off entire generation of Africans, both adults and children, it empties rural communities, towns and villages and professional urban classes indiscriminately, without regard for class or clan. However, the level of newfound interest in Africa remains insufficient and indeed grossly lacking. AIDS is not the only crisis that is causing great harm on the continent of Africa right now. As AIDS devastates African nations with frightening speed, so too do the specter of hunger and the shadows of famine fall across southern Africa.

I ask my colleagues, in our newfound interest in Africa, to consider the widespread incidence of hunger in Africa. The reports are arriving with greater frequency and they are chilling. As many as 20 million people in the region of southern Africa are suffering from hunger and insecurity of food. My friends, this is equal to the population of the entire State of Texas. Let us just consider for one moment that we knew the entire State of Texas was dying for insufficient food. We indeed would do something.

Please consider The Washington Post article, and I quote. I want to just read a part of that:

"Please forgive my ramblings," said the old man, stooped and still as he sat on a wooden stool in front of his mud hut. The hunger makes my mind wander."

"In his lucid moments, Lucas Lufuzi recites the numbers, calibrating his catastrophic situation. Three days since he's eaten. Thirty-one cobs of unripe, green corn. One son: 29 years alive and 21 days dead. Two seasons of crops spoiled by erratic weather, rain one year, drought the next."

"What is taking place across southern Africa is the perfect famine, a disastrous collaboration between nature and man that has caused the region's worst food shortage in nearly 60 years."

The worst food shortage in 60 years. Let us remember that we had the Biafran tragedy, the Ethiopian famines of the eighties, the long hunger march of the Sudanese which continues to this day. Sixty years, Mr. Speaker. We can do better.

We will consider a bill on emergency funding, and I ask my colleagues to consider no better cause than to respond to the hunger of the world. Until this is done, we cannot claim to be really concerned about our brothers and sisters in Africa.

In the last year, there has been much discussion about the assistance to Africa by Western nations including the United States and Europe. With the crisis of AIDS and other infectious diseases continuing to grow ever more menacing, the wealthy countries of the world are finally, though still inadequately, taking notice of the pandemic and the devastation that it wreaks every day upon our African